

BAPTIST RECORD.

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THE BAPTIST RECORD

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EDITORIAL.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

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THE THEATER.

Sometimes the thought mill is like the mills of the gods, it grinds slow. These thoughts have been grinding for some weeks—in fact, ever since the advertisements of the Sullivan show were posted in our city. We can't well refrain any longer. If there lacked anything to show to what depths of degradation the theater has descended, it is furnished by the fact that Fitzsimmons, the pugilist who recently defeated Hall in the prize ring at New Orleans for a purse of \$40,000, was immediately sought by telegraph by several managers of the theater, to make an engagement to travel with their troupe and appear on the stage in sparring matches. One manager, it is stated, offered him as high as a thousand dollars a week. Only a few days ago life-size pictures of John L. Sullivan, the retired pugilist, was posted all over our city advertising his appearance at the Opera House as a great attraction. That man of John L. Sullivan's character constitute such an attractive feature at the theaters of the country as to enable the managers to pay exorbitant salaries to them, ought to be so clear and convincing of the character of the people who attend theaters, as to deter all good people, especially church members, from attending. It is simply the prize ring a little more respectable, but it is degrading, if not shameful. The time has come when the Christian people of this country ought to take a bold, open stand upon this question of debauching our youth by these shameful exhibitions.

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OUR OBSERVATORY.

Every church will excuse us for reminding them again of the meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention at Nashville, and of the fact that it will be the handsomest thing for them to do to send their pastors. We know they intend to do it, but if some other in each church does not look after it, the church will fail to do it. It would otherwise have given members pleasure to have done. Another writes us: "I am going to go to Nashville, but I don't know how I can afford it." You say, for we know a little of it, and we are certain that your generous people will not miss that meeting. And here is a statement from a paper to the effect that one of his churches has informed him that she will pay her part of his expenses to the Convention. Good. The country churches are first-class, and so are the country pastors. What does all mean? We are having such aodus of preachers from our State. Within two or three months we have lost: Carter, Miller, Lipsey, Gray and Christian, and there seems to be a strong probability that Sproule will go. They are all first-class men of whom any State might be proud. "If all the preachers leave Mississippi but me, I will be lonesome,"—W. T. Lowry. We hope that they will not leave you in such a condition. It seems to us that it is time to call a halt, though we hear of the prospect of the departure of a few more of the brethren. "How sad that we have lost Capt. Powell! God only knows what a blessing he has been to the world. Oh! for more such men."—W. T. Lowry. Bro. A. V. Rowe writes to know when it will be for him to come to Oxford. We leave that entirely with you, Bro. Rowe, with this assurance: when you do come the Oxford saints will do the right thing by you. We have been acquainted with them for years, and we have never known a fall in a single instance to go to Oxford, and cause him to go away. We are glad that he came. We read growing accounts of the beginning of a new pastorate in the older States. The pastor goes back to tell his State paper of the glorious church the Lord has given him, and a member of the church writes the paper of the State in which said church is located to tell what a grand man they have found. Great crowds fill the house on Sundays. Numbers meet the brother at the depot upon his arrival. His larder was filled, and soon he begins a protracted meeting. We do not know the deluded thing of that church and of its form, but we know the seventh pastor of the church has had within the last few years. The brother who preceded this new edition is one of the most modest, godly men we know, a full graduate of the Seminary, and a model preacher and pastor, but he was forced to resign without a call, and left high and dry for months. The same fate was shared by the other six. They went in with a flourish of trumpets, but came out in a few months with furred and dirty banners. We would not give a great deal for the seal of the present incumbent two years hence, unless the Lord should be pleased to take some of the members of his enthusiastic church home to heaven, and convert others in the meeting now in progress. We are pleased to receive a letter from Bro. B. C. Lampley and to learn that there is a forward movement upon the part of his church in Greenville. May the Lord bless him and his people.

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A VOICE FROM THE GULF COAST.

DEAR BRO. HACKETT.—Permit me to lay before the denomination in the State, the real condition of things, religiously, on the Coast from English Lookout on the west, to Saratoga on the east, a distance of about seventy-five miles, and the imperative and immediate demands, if we are not to retrograde, comparatively. And I must be permitted to say, what we must be done with as little delay as possible.

First, then, I will say, between the two points I have mentioned—including Saratoga and Moss Point—there are some fifteen Coast towns having populations varying from 1,000 to 5,000, and in all these places there are only seven churches and six houses of worship; and there are but two pastors located on this field—Bro. Green and myself—and although we do a great deal of work—preaching, visiting, etc., during the week, we are utterly unable to meet the demands. And unless our force can very soon be increased, very much of the field now open to us will have been pre-empted, or at least, preoccupied by others. The Methodists have well nigh doubled their working force the present year, and they have now about eight preachers where we have only two. The Presbyterians also have increased their force, and the Episcopalians likewise, and even the Catholics are bestirring themselves as never before. By the grace of God and the co-operation of our brethren here—who, by the way, are worthy of much praise for their faithfulness to our Master, to us, their servants, and to the cause, we will try to "hold our fort" and "sustain the enemies" until reinforcement comes, if it is not too long delayed. But, brethren, we must soon have help, and men who are capable, and who will compare favorably with other preachers now on the field. If the Board can send us one man by the first of July—as I have written the secretary—and then give us another next year, as God may help us, we will man the field to the best of our ability. But less than three men now, and four in the near future, cannot meet the pressing demands. Besides, we also need money with which to buy lots, the values of which are rapidly advancing, and to build houses of worship, etc.

Having said so much in THE RECORD and through private correspondence within the last fifteen months about the pressing need of help to build a house for the Lord at Bay St. Louis, and having received so few favorable responses, I would not further trouble my brethren but for the fact that I know my cause is just, and I believe the Lord will yet open the hearts and purses of the brethren, and our Macedonia cry will yet be heeded and we will yet get the needed help. I send this forth with a prayer to our heavenly Father that his children may read it, consider it prayerfully, and act in the premises as they believe the will of the Lord to be, and as they may be able.

I meant to give a synopsis of my last six months' work, but as my "piece" is already too long, I will wait until your columns are less crowded. J. J. W. MATTHEWS.
Hansboro, Miss., April 5, 1893.

SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION, NASHVILLE, TENN.

There promises to be a very large attendance on the Southern Baptist Convention at Nashville, Tenn., which will occur in May next, and as usual, the Richmond and Danville, railroad including the Great Pacific Division, is making all the arrangements for a comfortable and pleasant trip for all those who wish to attend from this section.

Special low rates and excellent service are offered to its numerous patrons for this occasion. Any of the agents or officials of this great system will take pleasure in supplying all desired information, and will give the business their very best attention. Write or call on W. P. ADAMS, Passenger Agent, Birmingham, Ala. E. J. MARTIN, Soliciting Agent, Columbus, Miss. 21.

THE VERY BEST HELPS.

Every pastor and superintendent would do well to see that his school is supplied with the very best helps to the study of God's word. We must not allow any other literature to supplant the Bible in the hands of the young; but should avail ourselves of the best aids to a right understanding of the divine word. Such are found in the Sunday School Lesson Helps and papers published by the American Baptist Publication Society, and we cheerfully recommend them to all Sunday School workers.

CHRONICLES.

Baptists ought to continue to be pioneers in every good work, especially in the propagation of Bible truth, and the establishment of churches as in apostolic times. Their power has always grown from the simple gospel of strict obedience to God's revealed will as given in the holy scriptures. They cannot find in the New Testament where Christ ever delegated his authority to man, nor where the apostles possessed the right to appoint successors. Hence the commission to "go teach all nations" was not given to the apostles and their successors, but to the whole body of disciples—not to "the church," but to the churches. The only officers named as "set apart" were bishops, elders and deacons. From whence came popes, cardinals, arch-bishops, priests, etc., this denon knoweth not, nor does he know any scriptural authority for "infant baptism," or the union of church and State.

That Baptists have been foremost in contending for soul liberty, freedom of speech, etc., will scarcely be denied. They have not been merely "tolerant," but insisted upon the right of every one to worship according to his conscience, and that all civil laws to enforce any special form were unjust and contrary to the spirit of the gospel. Yet these same Baptists have been charged with "bigotry," and from the days of the apostles until now have been the subjects of direct or indirect persecution. This has not been because they forced their interpretation of the word of God upon others, but because they have resisted compulsion to adopt the views of men no more inspired than themselves. All they ask is investigation, and it cannot be shown that they have ever persecuted "for conscience sake." In some things they have been dilatory, and one of these is in "occupancy" of fields, and another is in fairly "in-doctrinating" their own people.

It is a remarkable fact that large inroads are being made year by year upon the ranks of the Roman Catholic Church, and the encroachments of "society," so-called, Roman Catholicism is more visible though its methods are dangerous to our faith and to the religious freedom of our country. Their growth has been phenomenal; until they now outnumber any other denomination of professed Christians in our land. Dr. Josiah Strong, in his book, "Our Country," makes some startling disclosures and gives astounding statistics. Another work worth reading that throws much light on purposes of the hierarchy is, "Romanism and the Republic." We can fear an organization without condemning all its members; and right here the Chronicler would say that some as consistent Christians as he ever knew were Catholics, and he counts among them some of his best friends. But he cannot agree with them in recognizing any earthly power as superior to civil government—i. e., in temporal matters.

While it is true that our denomination is rapidly increasing not in numbers only, but in educational facilities and financial strength; it is a fact that Roman Catholicism outstrips us, and that Episcopacy relatively is gaining ascendancy in social and political influence. The last few years have shown some strange defections, so to speak. It seems that the claims of society, after a worldly sort, are considered superior to religious obligations. Our hope is in returning more closely to the doctrines of the Bible and the teachings of Christ and his apostles.

As recorded in the New Testament, these things demand our serious attention, and it will appear that as a people we are not laboring enough nor do we receive enough for the simple truths of Christianity.

GOOD PROSPECTS.

In a P. S. to a private note thankfully acknowledging the receipt of help on account of the cyclone, Brother Bynum says of his work: "I am pushing my work with all my might. Prospects encouraging. I returned to-day from our Moss Point church; had a good meeting; preached three sermons to good congregations; one baptized. The Sunday School which we organized last month is making a fine start. Our church at Cross Roads is moving on nicely. Will soon have our house completed. Sunday School excellent. Am well pleased with field. A great deal of hard work, but I rather like that. Pray that the Lord will abundantly bless us in the upbuilding of his cause in these parts. J. F. BYNUM.

We all in Mississippi rejoice with the "Pioneer brothers" and their churches, the old First and Valence Street in New Orleans in their gracious revival and ingathering. See the report of the good times in this paper.

SECRETARY A. V. ROWE AT STARKVILLE.

DEAR BRO. HACKETT.—Bro. A. V. Rowe, our new secretary, was with us yesterday, and gave us two most excellent sermons. The morning sermon was preached from Romans 1:14, and made a fine impression on the large audience present. No Christian who listened to that sermon left without feeling that they were debtors and under infinite obligations to give the gospel to the nations of the earth. This being our regular day, a collection was taken for foreign missions, amounting to \$53.

Bro. Rowe's visit has been a blessing to us, and we will rejoice to have him with us as often as possible. T. G. SELLERS.

A BAD SPELL.

It is Cairns. There is no "e" in his name. George Robert Cairns is pronounced as "air" in fair, pair, naire, Cairns, not Cars, not Kurns. In the days of persecution in Scotland, when the faithful hid in dens and caves of the earth, and changed their names, the remote ancestor of his family was born in a Cairns pile of rocks, their abode at the time, and so took the new name Cairns, which afterwards as they multiplied had an "s" added. He is fine evangelist, direct, earnest, evangelical, bold, strong, hear him. But please spell and pronounce people's names correctly. PERRY GOO.

HO! FOR THE CONVENTION!

Go to the Southern Baptist Convention at Nashville, Tenn., on May 12, by the Queen and Crescent route, and see the finest scenery in the South. Get a stop-over ticket and spend a day at Lookout Mountain. Same price as by other routes. It will put you in Nashville one hour sooner than any other route. Through sleeper to Chattanooga. For further information, write to Dr. B. Womeck, Clinton, Miss. 11.

A GOOD DAY AT LONGVIEW.

DEAR RECORD.—You may record last Sunday, April 2, as having been a happy day with the saints at Longview Baptist church, Natchez, Miss. The morning being lovely, the worshippers met promptly and spent half an hour in reading the scriptures, in praise and prayer. Every brother that was called upon took part promptly and cheerfully. Truly it was a devotional and a delightful service. Preaching service followed with every family in the community, but two in attendance. Collection was taken, in which almost all took a cheerful part. The services were closed by the commemoration of the sufferings and death of our Lord, only three members of the church being absent, and one of them, we know, was sick. Thank God for such days of service. T. M. ELLERBE.

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